

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Today, Congressman Rob Wittman released the following statement on the Department of Labor's, Bureau of Labor and Statistics, unemployment numbers have reached 10.2% across the Nation:

"Nearly 9 months ago the majority pushed through a stimulus bill without consensus from both sides of the aisle, and today we have just learned that unemployment numbers have jumped to a record 10.2%. This upward trend is simply unacceptable to our Nation's citizens, our small businesses and our overall economic health. I remain committed to enacting policies that will put folks back to work. It is time that we set aside our differences and put forth a package that will aid small businesses, which contribute to 70% of the new job growth in this country, encourage investors to reenter the marketplace, and invest in meaningful programs which will strengthen our Nation and its workforce. I am optimistic that by utilizing these fundamental principles, we will reenergize the entrepreneurial spirit of America, and we will continue to be the world's economic leader."

*Congressman Rob Wittman represents the First District of Virginia. He was elected to his first full term in November 2008 and serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Armed Services Committee where he is the Ranking Member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.*